"Four Years Ago the Library [CMC: i.e., the New York Public Library] acquired the Aleutian manuscript texts recorded by the late Waldemar Jochelson when he headed the ethnological section of the scientific expedition sent by the Russian Geographical Society to the Aleutian Island and Kamchatka. With the assistants Jochelson reached the peninsula in the summer of 1910 and spent the following winter studying the language and culture of the aborigines, the Kamchadals, or, as they call themselves, Itelmens (='men'). He recorded a number of texts in Kamchadal and wrote several papers on the Kamchatka and its natives, which have remained largely unpublished. Last year all these manuscripts came into the possession of the Library.

Texts in Kamchadal

The studies, 129 typewritten pages in all, are couched in rather bad English. They include some notes on the geography and history of the region, but have to do chiefly with the Kamchadals, their social institutions, folklore and shamanism, as well as the various elements of their material culture, such as occupations, crafts, dwellings, food, clothes, harness, tools, weapons, armor. There are also some observations on Kamchadal diseases and folk medicine. The papers are somewhat disjointed and repetitious and give the impression of preliminary notes for a monograph. They are supplemented by some fifty photographs, presumably taken

during the expedition of 1910-11 and intended to illustrate the work that Jochelson had in preparation. They depict aborigines: men, women and children, separately and in groups, as well as landscapes, village streets, homes, dogs, products of native crafts. Three of these photographs are reproduced herewith.

Jochelson's studies include some linguistic material: a few observations on the Russian dialect spoken by the natives, a list of Itelmen terms of kinship, paradigms of Itelmen nouns, pronouns and verbs, and a sketch of the phonology of the language."

18: Yarmolinsky--3-4 L-4 (no date) 1947 Kamchadal
116, 114, 126, 177, 197, 212

"It should be noted that, like Yukagir (Odul), another Palaeoasiatic vernacular, Itelmen [CMC: i.e., the language of the Kamchadals] is well on its way to extinction. Of the 4,137 Kamchadals recorded in the Soviet census of 1926 only about 800 persons inhabiting eight villages in the Talgi district of the Kamchatka Region spoke Itelmen. The rest had become linguistically assimilated to the Russian population. (See Bolshaya sovetskaya entziklopediya, s.v. Itelmenski yazyk and Itelmeny.) There was [4] no Kamchadal writing prior to 1932 when an Itelmen alphabet, made up of Latin characters, was worked out at the Technical School of the Peoples, of the North, Khabarovsk. That year the first Kamchadal primer was printed [CMC: Ntanselqzaalkicen! Itelmenan anselnoan kniga... Budem uchit'sa! Itel'menskaya uchebnaya kniga. Napisana brigadoĭ itel'menov, uchashchikhsya Khabarovskovo tekhnikuma Severa...pod rukovodstvom uchitel'nitzy Ye. Orlovoĭ. Nauchno-Issledovatel'skaya Assotziatziya Instituta Narodov Severa TsIK SSSR. Leningrad: Uchpedgiz, 1932] and the following year an arithmetic [CMC: Popova, N. S. Arifmetika; uchebnik dlya 1-vo klassa nachal'noĭ shkoly; perevod na itel'menski yazyk Ye. Orlovoi. Leningrad: Uchpedgiz, 1933] These are apparently the only Kamchadal books in existence."

18: Yarmolinsky--4 L-4 (no date) 1947 Kamchadal-1-2
116, 114, 126

"This circumstance lends particular interest to the Itelmen texts which are part of the newly acquired manuscript collection. There are in all forty-one of them. With the exception of one item - a brief account of a trip from one village to another by a native, apparently an informant of Jochelson's, they are in the nature of folk tales. The texts, in the original Kamchadal, all typewritten, are provided with an interlinear literal translation, in Jochelson's hand, and with a free rendering, both in an English of sorts. The free translation is often abridged. The editing of the texts must have been carried out by the Russian ethnographer in this country, where he settled in 1922. (1)

1. A group of Kamchadal tales was recorded about 1900 by another Russian ethnographer, Waldemar Bogoras, while he was doing field work in North-Eastern Siberia as a member of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition. He placed these texts at the disposal of Jochelson, who published a free English rendering of nine of them in his monumental monograph on the Koryaks (American Museum of Natural History. Memoirs, v.10, Leiden-New York, 1908, p. 327-340). The whereabouts of the original texts is unknown. Some of these tales are variants of the stories recorded by Jochelson. The text of one Kamchadal tale, with a word-for-word Russian translation is appended to S.N. Stebnitzki's Itelmen grammar [CMC: Itel'menskiĭ yazyk. (Institut

narodov Severa, Leningrad. Nauchno-issledovatel'skaya assotziatziya. Trudy po lingvistike. Moskva, 1934. 4°. t. 3, p. 85-104)]

Below [CMC: see category 539] are given versions of three of the more attractive folk tales. The translation is based on Jochelson's word-for-word rendering. This occasionally fails to convey a satisfactory meaning, and the present writer, while seeking to adhere to the original as closely as possible, felt justified in deviating from Jochelson's interpretations."